

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 00358 221704Z

22

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 /021 W

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R 221411Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 90

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 0358

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV ELAB AORG AIFLD ES

SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT BY AIFLD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DOHERTY

REF: STATE 11921, SAN SALVADOR 185

1. INCOURSE OF PRESIDENT MOLINA'S RECEPTION FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS EVENING OF JANUARY 20, I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH MINISTER OF LABOR ROGELIO CHAVEZ. THE MINISTER MENTIONED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE AIFLD GROUP, HEADED BY MR. DOHERTY, WOULD ARRIVE IN SAN SALVADOR LATER IN THE WEEK. I ASKED CHAVEZ HOW HE HAD HEARD OF THE VISIT. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM MR. DOHERTY SOME WEEKS AGO SAYING THAT THE GROUP WOULD BE PASSING THROUGH SAN SALVADOR AND ASKING FOR AN APPOINTMENT. THE MINISTER SAID HE HAD SCHEDULED A MEETING FOR JANUARY 22.

2. I INFORMED CHAVEZ THAT I HAD ALSO RECEIVED WORD THAT THE GROUP PLANNED A VISIT. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD SUGGESTED TO MR. DOHERTY THAT, WITH THE COUNTRY GOING INTO ITS LEGISLATIVE AND MADICIPAL ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN, THIS DID NOT SEEM AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR AIFLD TO BE TALKING TO GOES OFFICIALS. THE MINISTER SAID HE COMPLETELY AGREED ON THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OF SUCH A VISIT AT THIS TIME. HE SAID HE HAD AGREED TO THE APPOINTMENT OUT OF COURTESY, BUT THAT HE DID NOT WELCOME THE PROSPECT OF A VISIT THAT COULD BE SO EASILY MISCONSTRUED BY LOCAL LABOR AND CAMPESINO LEADERS, IF NEWS OF IT GOT OUT, AS HE SUSPECTED IT WOULD. HE SAID HE, TO, PREFERRED THAT THE VISIT TAKE PLACE AFTER THE

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PAGE 02 SAN SA 00358 221704Z

MARCH ELECTIONS. I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD TELEPHONE MR. DOHERTY AND

SUGGEST POSTPONEMENT.

3. THIS MORNING I CALLED MR. DOHERTY IN SAN JOSE TO BRIEF HIM OF MY CONVERSATION. I TOLD HIM THAT IN LIGHT OF CHAVEZ' RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE WISDOM AND USEFULNESS OF HIS VISIT AT THIS TIME, I WISHED TO REITERATE MY CONCERN AND SUGGEST THAT HE POSTPONE THE TRIP UNTIL AFTER THE MARCH ELECTIONS. MR. DOHERTY AGREED TO CANCEL HIS PLANS TO STOP OVER IN SAN SALVADOR. WE AGREED THAT HE WILL WRITE TO ME SOMETIME AROUND THE END OF MARCH OR THE BEGINNING OF APRIL (THE ELECTIONS ARE ON MARCH 14), AND WE WILL EVALUATE THE APPROPRIATENESS OF A VISIT AT THAT TIME.

4. AFTER TALKING TO MR. DOHERTY, I CONVEYED THE INFORMATION THAT THE VISIT HAD BEEN CANCELED TO MINISTER CHAVEZ. HIS REPLY WAS "THAT'S GREAT".
CAMPBELL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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